

a thickness between 1 nm and 500 nm.

24. Use of a surface coating as claimed in claim 8, wherein the superficial oxide layer has a thickness between 0.1 nm and 500 nm.

25. Use of a surface coating as claimed in claim 9, wherein the deposited layer has a thickness between 1 nm and 500 nm.

26. Use of a surface coating as claimed in claim 9, wherein the superficial oxide layer has a thickness between 0.1 nm and 500 nm.

27. Process of claim 1 wherein the deposited layer has a thickness between 1 nm and 500 nm.

28. Process of claim 1 wherein the superficial oxide layer has a thickness between 0.1 nm and 500 nm.

#### REMARKS

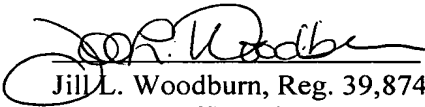
The specification has been amended at page 1 line 1 and page 5 line 5 to add headings to the application. No new matter is believed to be added by virtue of the amendments to the specification.

Claims 1 and 15 have been amended to correct a typographical error and to include the transitional phrase "comprising". Claims 5, 8, 9, 12, and 13 have been amended to remove their multiple dependencies. Claims 16-28 have been added to point out more specifically the subject matter of the present invention. Support for the new claims is found throughout the specification. No new matter is added by virtue of the amendments to the claims or of the new claims.

The claims as submitted herein are believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested. It is requested that this paper be considered a Petition for Extension of time sufficient to effect a timely response, and that all fees due be charged to Deposit Account Number 50-0877 with reference to (RDID 0041 US).

Respectfully submitted,

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